

Consideration of the dedication of the Crooked Lake Addition Nature Preserve in Whitley County

The proposed Nature Preserve is a 69.472 acre property along the northern border of Whitley County. This nature preserve is located approximately 6.5 miles north of Columbia City, in Indiana's Northern Lakes Natural Region.

The proposed nature preserve addition primarily consists of upland forests, which act as a buffer, a few reforested former fields that are contiguous with the upland forest of the original nature preserve, and a spatterdock pond.

This Nature Preserve is an important addition to the Crooked Lake Nature Preserve and to the watershed and water quality of Crooked Lake. This is a lake that is only one of a few in Indiana that still support populations of the "cisco" fish, a species of 'special concern'. The watershed of crooked Lake has been studied to determine sources of runoff and possible solutions to improving water quality, and this tract was identified as an important site to acquire.

This tract is owned and managed by the Department of Natural Resources and the Division of Nature Preserves.

The Division of Nature Preserves recommends dedication of this site as a State Nature Preserve.

Attached is Nature Preserves exhibit A.

Crooked Lake Addition Nature Preserve

Exhibit A

County: Whitley
Size: 69,472 acres

USGS Map: Merriam quad
Ownership: Div Nature Preserves

